



International Travel by Congress: Legislation in the 111th Congress, Background, and Potential Policy Options

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Summary

International travel by Members of Congress and their staff is an issue of longstanding interest among some members of the public, media outlets, and Members. Questions regarding the purposes and destinations of international travel by Congress frequently arise, as do questions about the ability to track the costs and benefits of such travel. There is no single source that identifies all international travel undertaken by the House or Senate, and no means to identify the number of trips taken, destinations visited, travelers, total costs, or costs paid for by funds appropriated to government entities other than Congress. This report provides information and analysis on the use of foreign currency expended in support of congressional travel to international destinations that is paid for with appropriated funds and authorized by the House or Senate; on measures related to international travel by Congress introduced in the 111th Congress, and administrative actions related to international travel taken by the House; and on potential options for Congress related to international travel by Members and staff. This report does not provide data on travel costs borne by executive agencies that support congressional travel, as those data are not publicly available.

Under current law the use of foreign currency in conjunction with international travel by Congress must be disclosed. Those data were tabulated, and suggest that the number of disclosures filed in both chambers and expenditures has grown since 1993, but not in a consistent manner suggesting a readily identifiable pattern of activity. It cannot be determined from available data whether the increase is attributable to increased travel or use of foreign currency, decreased utilization of privately sponsored travel, or change in the manner in which the House or Senate document their use of foreign currency through the disclosure process.

In the 111th Congress, legislation has been introduced to study and change the manner in which such travel is authorized, funded, and disclosed. Measures include H.R. 3036, introduced by Representative Walter B. Jones; H.R. 4983, sponsored by Representative Mike Quigley; and H.R. 4447 and H.R. 5957, introduced by Representative Timothy V. Johnson.

On May 14, 2010, Speaker Nancy Pelosi issued a restatement of rules regarding the authorization by House committee chairmen of international and domestic travel by Members and staff of the House.

This report will be updated as events warrant.

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International travel by Members of Congress and their staffs is an issue of longstanding interest among some members of the public, media outlets, and Members. Questions regarding the purposes, destinations, and costs of international travel by Congress frequently arise,¹ as do questions about the ability to track the costs and benefits of such travel.² Travel in connection with official duties may be paid for with appropriated funds, or, in limited circumstances, funded by a foreign government or private source, pursuant to statute or House or Senate rules. Travel unrelated to official duties may be paid by the traveling Member or staff member, or by a private source, subject to House or Senate rule or statute. In the 111th Congress, legislation has been introduced to study and change the manner in which such travel is authorized, funded, and disclosed. Members of Congress and their staff may travel abroad under a number of circumstances which may be related or unrelated to official duties.

There are no requirements regarding the disclosure of international travel by Members of Congress or their staffs that contain records of all international travel that might be taken. Some congressional international travel is subject to disclosure if sponsored by a foreign government³ or private entity,⁴ or if foreign currency is used in conjunction with travel. This report provides information and analysis on the use of foreign currency expended in support of congressional travel to international destinations that is paid for with appropriated funds and authorized by the House or Senate;⁵ on measures related to international travel by Congress introduced in the 111th Congress, and administrative actions related to international travel taken by the House; and on potential options for Congress related to international travel by Members and staff. This report does not provide data on travel costs borne by executive agencies that support congressional travel, as those data are not publicly available, or travel sponsored by a foreign government⁶ or

¹ Brody Mullins and T.W. Farnam, “Congress’s Travel Tab Swells,” *The Wall Street Journal*, July 2, 2009, p. A1, available at http://online.wsj.com/article/NA_WSJ_PUB:SB124650399438184235.html; Brody Mullins and T.W. Farnam, “Lawmakers’ Travel Reports Understate True Cost,” *The Wall Street Journal*, July 3, 2009, p. A3, available at <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124657931514989505.html>; Brody Mullins and T.W. Farnam, “Lawmakers Keep the Change: Cash Left Over From Official Trips Overseas is Often Used for Personal Expenses,” *The Wall Street Journal*, March 2, 2010, p. A3; FactCheck.org, *Pelosi’s Party Plane?*, March 4, 2010, <http://factcheck.org/2010/03/pelosis-party-plane/>.

² Dear Colleague Letter from Representative Timothy V. Johnson, “Why the House Should STAY PUT in 2010,” April 27, 2010, <http://e-dearcolleague.house.gov/details.aspx?36843>; Dear Colleague Letter from Representative Mike Quigley, “Support Unprecedented Government Transparency: Cosponsor H.R. 4983, the Transparency in Government Act,” May 10, 2010, <http://e-dearcolleague.house.gov/details.aspx?37885>; Dear Colleague Letter from Representative Walter B. Jones, “Cosponsor H.R. 3036 – Bring Sunshine to the Costs of Congressional Foreign Travel,” July 20, 2009, <http://e-dearcolleague.house.gov/details.aspx?18831>.

³ For an overview of rules, regulations, and statutes governing congressional international travel paid by a foreign government, see U.S. Congress, Senate Select Committee on Ethics, *Senate Ethics Manual*, 108th Cong., 1st sess., 2003 Edition, S. Pub. 108-1 (Washington: GPO, 2003), pp. 49-52, available at <http://ethics.senate.gov/downloads/pdffiles/manual.pdf>; U.S. Congress, House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, *House Ethics Manual*, 2008 Edition, 110th Cong., 2nd sess. (Washington: GPO, 2008), pp. 108-111, available at <http://ethics.house.gov/Subjects/Topics.aspx?Section=100>; 5 U.S.C. 7342; 22 U.S.C. 2458.

⁴ For an overview of rules, regulations, and statutes governing congressional international travel paid by a private entity, see Senate Select Committee on Ethics, “Senate Select Committee on Ethics’ (sic) Regulations and Guidelines for Privately-Sponsored Travel,” available at http://ethics.senate.gov/downloads/pdffiles/regulations%20on%20privately%20sponsored%20travel_guidelines.pdf; House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, *House Ethics Manual*, pp. 88-103, available at <http://ethics.house.gov/Subjects/Topics.aspx?Section=96>.

⁵ Some of the data and other material presented here were originally developed in response to congressional requests, and are used with the permission of those requesters.

⁶ The House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct makes records of disclosures of foreign gifts filed by Members and House staff available at the committee office. The contents of those disclosures are published annually in the *Federal Register*. Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, *House Ethics Manual*, pp. 109-110, 389-393.

private entity.⁷ Consideration of domestic travel within the continental United States or travel to U.S. territories is also excluded, unless a trip included a domestic destination in conjunction with onward travel to an international destination.⁸

Foreign Currency Disclosure Requirements

22 U.S.C. 1754 provides that foreign currency “owned by the United States … shall be made available to Members and employees of the Congress for their local currency expenses” when traveling overseas on official duties. The measure requires the chairs of each House, Senate, and joint committee who authorize foreign travel to prepare a quarterly consolidated report itemizing the amounts and U.S. dollar equivalent of the foreign currencies spent by committee Members and staff who travel overseas on committee business. Members or staff who are authorized to travel abroad on official duty by the Speaker of the House, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, or the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate, are also required to disclose their use of foreign currency.

The disclosures are required to state the purposes of expenditures for travel for each traveler in four categories, including

- per diem (costs of meals and lodging);
- transportation;
- other purposes; and
- the total of each category by traveler.

Travel disclosures filed pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1754 appear to represent the largest, publicly available component of official congressional international travel expenditures paid for with appropriated funds. The resulting data, however, may be of limited utility because they cover a narrow range of expenditures for international travel by Congress. Among the expenses that are not included in the foreign currency disclosures are the expenses borne by executive agencies in support of congressional travel. In addition to that challenge, the explanatory capacity of the data may be further limited because the House and Senate file foreign currency disclosures differently. Numerous reports filed in the House since 1998 report no expenditures of funds during a specified reporting period. In some cases, this may be because no travel took place. In other instances, some House disclosures reported travel to a specific destination, but did not indicate an expenditure of foreign currency. There are no reports filed in the Senate that list no expenditures. Other examples of data challenges, and some of the potential consequences, include the following:

- Some disclosures list expenditures grouped by individual trips, while others list expenditures by individual travelers. This impairs the ability to use the data to identify the number of trips taken, or the number of travelers on certain trips.

⁷ Some data regarding international and domestic travel paid by private sponsors for Members and staff of the House are available at http://clerk.house.gov/public_disc/giftTravel.html. Similar information for the Senate is available from the Senate Office of Public Records.

⁸ For example, some of the disclosures that form the data discussed below listed travel to Asia or Australia and included stops in Hawaii. Disclosures that listed travel solely to destinations in the United States are excluded.

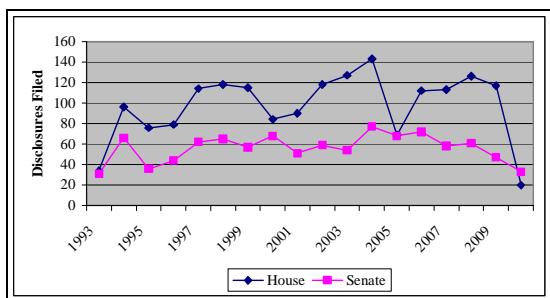
- Some disclosures provide expenditures by individual disbursements, but do not provide total per diem, transportation, and other expenditures. This precludes a means of checking the accuracy of the reported data, and raises the possibility of inaccuracy when combining the reported expenditures.
- Some disclosures identify annual expenditures, rather than quarterly for an entity, as is required by 22 U.S.C. 1754. This precludes the ability to identify patterns of travel within years.
- Some disclosure forms do not clearly identify the entity for which they were filed, destinations visited (including unofficial or partial names for destinations⁹) or currencies expended, if any. This precludes the ability to identify the number of times individual destinations have been visited.
- Some disclosures contain typographical or mathematical errors. Any inaccuracy in individual-level data reduces the overall accuracy of an aggregated set of data, or could call into question the explanatory capacity of other data.

Taken together, these factors might raise questions about the accuracy of reported destinations, participants, or expenditures. Consequently, these factors may reduce the suitability and reliability of these data as indicators of a number of typical measures of travel, including the number of trips taken; number of congressional travelers; destinations, and the number times a destination was visited; purposes of travel; benefits of travel; or the extent of expenditures for congressional travel.

⁹ E.g., numerous trips to “Korea,” “West Indies,” “Holland,” or “Congo,” or the listing of cities (London, Brussels) or provinces, regions, or constituent elements of a country or territory (England, Abu Dhabi, Ascension Island).

Foreign Currency Disclosure Data

Figure 1. House and Senate Foreign Currency Use Disclosures Filed, 1993-2010



Source: Disclosures of foreign currency used in conjunction with international travel by House and Senate entities.

Notes: Senate data through August 3, 2010, House through July 26, 2010. 2010 data do not cover the entire year. House disclosures that reported no expenditures are excluded.

pattern of activity in either chamber. It cannot be determined from available data whether the increase is attributable to increased travel or use of foreign currency, decreased utilization of privately sponsored travel, or change in the manner in which the House or Senate document their use of foreign currency through the disclosure process.

Since 1993,¹⁰ 3,003 foreign currency disclosures related to international travel have been filed in the House and Senate.¹¹ 1,994 of those disclosures were filed by House entities. Of the House disclosures, 243 reported no expenditures of foreign currency. House data presented below are based on the remaining 1,751 disclosures that contained expenditure information. Senate data are based on expenditures reported in 1,009 disclosures filed in the chamber. **Figure 1** charts the number of disclosures that contained expenditure data filed by each chamber. The number of disclosures filed in each chamber since 1993 is summarized in **Table A-1**. The data suggest that the number of disclosures filed in both chambers has grown since 1993, with House disclosures growing at a faster rate than the Senate's, but not in a consistent manner indicative of a readily identifiable

¹⁰ Senate data through August 3, 2010, House data through July 26, 2010.

¹¹ Reports filed excludes initial reports that were amended in their entirety, and includes amendments that supplement initial reports.

The amounts reported in the 2,760 disclosures reporting foreign currency expenditures were tabulated. In some instances, a reporting entity did not provide total expenditures by category (per diem, transportation, other), or a grand total. When this was observed, totals were calculated for each category. **Table 1** provides total foreign currency expenditures for the House and Senate from FY1994-FY2010 in nominal and constant (June 2010) dollars. **Figure 2** graphs the levels of House and Senate foreign currency expenditures related to international travel in constant dollars over the same period. **Table A-2** and **Table A-8**, in the **Appendix**, provide expenditures by category for the House and Senate, respectively, over the same period.

As with the number of disclosures filed, **Figure 2** shows increased expenditures in both chambers over time. This could be explained by an increase in congressional international travel, or the costs of such travel. If the data are an indication of increased congressional travel, foreign currency expenditure data by itself cannot be used to determine whether increased travel expenditures equates to an increase in the number of trips, travelers, or destinations visited.

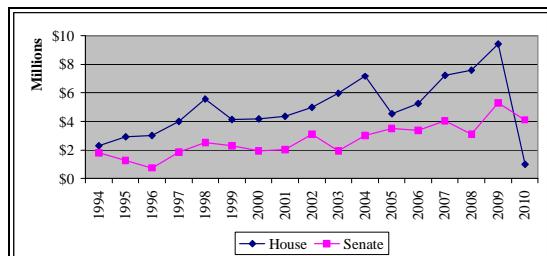
Table 1. House and Senate Foreign Currency Expenditures, FY1994-FY2010

Nominal and Constant (June 2010) Dollars

FY	House		Senate	
	Nominal \$	Constant \$	House	Senate
2010	\$997,368	\$4,100,445	—	—
2009	\$9,449,316	\$5,224,254	\$9,449,316	\$5,300,089
2008	\$7,503,068	\$3,009,582	\$7,581,644	\$3,093,412
2007	\$6,915,386	\$3,814,173	\$7,237,253	\$4,042,809
2006	\$4,850,662	\$3,095,681	\$5,247,334	\$3,369,446
2005	\$4,021,449	\$3,122,082	\$4,523,656	\$3,509,244
2004	\$6,223,775	\$2,610,378	\$7,162,999	\$3,022,359
2003	\$5,047,614	\$1,616,699	\$5,969,802	\$1,929,278
2002	\$4,131,739	\$2,561,037	\$4,974,218	\$3,099,083
2001	\$3,564,003	\$1,639,417	\$4,380,412	\$2,029,150
2000	\$3,278,846	\$1,528,939	\$4,160,310	\$1,948,224
1999	\$3,288,477	\$1,738,135	\$4,129,247	\$2,292,205
1998	\$4,181,357	\$1,871,555	\$5,572,230	\$2,507,695
1997	\$2,964,574	\$1,343,911	\$4,014,885	\$1,824,420

Figure 2. House and Senate Foreign Currency Expenditures, FY1994-FY2010

Constant (June 2010) Dollars



Source: Reports of certain expenditures for official foreign travel by Members and staff of the House and Senate, filed in accordance with 22 U.S.C. 1754, and CRS calculations.

Notes: Senate data through August 3, 2010, House through July 26, 2010. FY2010 data do not cover the entire year.

FY	House	Senate	House	Senate
	Nominal \$		Constant \$	
1996	\$2,177,859	\$532,105	\$3,028,214	\$740,049
1995	\$2,038,917	\$874,834	\$2,910,264	\$1,249,653
1994	\$1,557,162	\$1,260,830	\$2,286,077	\$1,801,026

Source: Reports of certain expenditures for official foreign travel by Members and staff of the House and Senate, filed in accordance with 22 U.S.C. 1754, and CRS calculations.

Notes: Senate data through August 3, 2010, House through July 26, 2010.

Costs

22 U.S.C. 1754 provides authority to the Secretary of the Treasury to “purchase such local currencies as may be necessary for such purposes, using any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated” when local currencies owned by the United States are not available. This language provides a permanent appropriation that provides funds to meet some of the expenses of congressional international travel. Funding levels are reported in the annual Budget of the United States Government (the President’s Budget),¹² in the Federal Programs by Agency and Account table entries for the Congressional Use of Foreign Currency, Senate and Congressional Use of Foreign Currency, House of Representatives accounts. These tables appear in the Supplemental Materials provided in the Analytical Perspectives volume for each fiscal year.¹³

Aggregated congressional disclosure data compiled by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) are reported in their entirety, while budget data presented in the President’s Budget are rounded to the nearest million dollars. As a consequence, the level of detail of any conclusions that might be drawn from comparing these data may be limited. **Table 2** provides foreign currency use and budget authority and obligations for the Senate and House, FY1994 – FY 2009.

Table 2. Senate and House Disclosure of Foreign Currency Use, and Budget Authority and Obligations, Congressional Use of Foreign Currency, Senate and House Accounts, FY1994-FY2009

Millions of Dollars

FY	Senate			House		
	Foreign Currency Disclosure	Budget Authority	Funds Obligated	Foreign Currency Disclosure	Budget Authority	Funds Obligated
2009	\$5.224	\$12	\$7	\$9.449	\$6	\$11
2008	\$4.868	\$13	\$7	\$7.503	\$18	\$13
2007	\$3.814	\$8	\$5	\$6.915	\$15	\$8

¹² Current and previous versions of the Annual Budget of the United States Government are available at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/usbudget/>.

¹³ For example the budget authority and obligation data for FY2009 are available at http://www.gpoaccess.gov/usbudget/fy11/pdf/ap_cd_rom/33_1.pdf.

FY	Senate			House		
	Foreign Currency Disclosure	Budget Authority	Funds Obligated	Foreign Currency Disclosure	Budget Authority	Funds Obligated
2006	\$3.096	\$7	\$5	\$4.851	\$15	\$9
2005	\$3.122	\$8	\$4	\$4.021	\$18	\$9
2004	\$2.610	\$4	\$3	\$6.224	\$14	\$9
2003	\$1.617	\$2	\$2	\$5.048	\$6	\$6
2002	\$2.561	\$3	\$3	\$4.132	\$5	\$5
2001	\$1.639	\$1	\$1	\$3.564	\$4	\$4
2000	\$1.529	\$1	\$1	\$3.279	\$5	\$4
1999	\$1.738	\$2	\$2	\$3.288	\$2	\$2
1998	\$1.872	\$1	\$1	\$4.181	\$2	\$2
1997	\$1.344	\$1	\$1	\$2.965	\$2	\$2
1996	\$0.532	\$1	\$1	\$2.178	\$3	\$2
1995	\$0.875	\$3	\$1	\$2.038	\$5	\$2
1994	\$1.261	\$2	\$2	\$1.557	\$5	\$3

Source: Foreign currency disclosure columns are based on disclosure of foreign currency used by Senate and House entities in conjunction with authorized international travel, as published in the *Congressional Record* through August 3, 2010, for the Senate, and July 26, 2010, for the House, and tabulated by CRS. Budget authority and obligation data based on the President's Budget, Federal Programs by Agency and Account table entries for the Congressional Use of Foreign Currency, Senate, and Congressional Use of Foreign Currency, House, various years, available at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/usbudget>.

Notes: Nominal dollars. Foreign currency disclosures collected from the *Congressional Record* and rounded by CRS. Budget authority and obligated levels presented as provided in the President's budget.

Recognizing the limitations of available disclosure and budgetary data, and the challenges that may arise when comparing them, it appears that since FY2004 for the House, and FY2005 for the Senate, funds in the Congressional Use of Foreign Currency Account for each chamber have been obligated in amounts larger than necessary to fund the use of foreign currency in conjunction with official congressional international travel, as reported by the House and Senate. This may call into question whether disclosure information is complete, or for what purposes the additional funds have been obligated. Further details that might illuminate these expenditures are not available, in part because there is no requirement that detailed expenditures for congressional international travel be publicly disclosed beyond the requirements of 22 U.S.C. 1754.

Trips and Destinations¹⁴

Although it does not appear intended for this purpose, the disclosure regime required by 22 U.S.C. 1754 provides an opportunity to assess the number of destinations to which Members and staff have travelled. In this section, “destinations” is used to identify travel to specific countries,

¹⁴ U.S. states that have appeared as destinations in congressional disclosures, and destinations that could not be identified by materials provided in congressional disclosures are excluded.

regions, or cities within countries, and areas that are territories, possessions, or protectorates of other nations. The primary source of destinations are the 22 U.S.C. 1754 disclosures. Inclusion as a destination in a congressional travel disclosure does not necessarily mean that the place listed is a foreign state. In some instances, foreign destinations may be identified in ways that are different than their official names or in ways that do not account for their international status. For example, French Guiana, located in South America, and Guadeloupe and Martinique, islands located between the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean, are considered by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) as parts of France. The State Department identifies them in its documents as parts of the French Antilles. In this report, they are listed separately from France to give an indication of the scope of congressional travel. Similarly, Diego Garcia and the Salomon Islands are listed as destinations, but they are identified as part of an archipelago located in the Indian Ocean between the continent of Africa and Indonesia, and are considered by CIA as part of Indian Ocean Territory of the United Kingdom. Antarctica is a continent that is administered internationally. In other instances, popular names of some countries are listed under the official name of the state,¹⁵ and some travel to regions or provinces of a country are listed as travel to the larger state.¹⁶

There is no explicit requirement that countries to which Members and congressional staff travel be identified in conjunction with the use of foreign currency. There may be an implicit expectation of country disclosure, however, because 22 U.S.C. 1754 (b)(C)(2) grants discretion to the chairs of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence to omit countries to which their Members and staff may travel. Disclosures filed by those panels typically do not identify countries to which their Members and staff travel, but the disclosures of other congressional entities typically do. Consequently, lists of destinations provided may not reflect all of the international destinations to which Members and staff have travelled on official business, and do not provide a clear indication of the number of times they have been visited.

Due to these limitations, it is not possible to identify discrete trips, or the total number of visits to a destination. It is possible, however, to count the total number destinations visited since 1993. **Table A-12** and **Table A-6** in the **Appendix** provide lists of destinations visited by Senators and Senate staff, and Members of the House and their staff, respectively, since 1993.

It is also possible to identify destinations by year and quarter. **Table A-3** and **Table A-9** provide the number of individual destinations to which House and Senate Members and staff, respectively, traveled by quarter and year, 1993-2009. In both tables, the “Individual Destinations” columns report the number of destinations visited at least once in each year. Quarterly totals report the number of destinations visited at least once in each quarter. Since some destinations may have been visited more than once in a quarter, or in more than one quarter, the sum of the quarterly totals may not reflect the number of individual destinations visited in each year.

The data also support the identification of travel to an individual destination on a quarterly and annual basis since 1993. **Table A-4** provides for the House, and **Table A-10** for the Senate a list of countries visited in the 15 or more years since 1993, while **Table A-5** for the House, and **Table**

¹⁵ E.g., references to Holland are listed under Netherlands.

¹⁶ E.g., travel to England, Scotland, Wales, or Northern Ireland is listed under United Kingdom; travel to Dubai or Abu Dhabi is listed under United Arab Emirates and travel to Zanzibar is listed as under Tanzania.

A-11 for the Senate provide lists of countries visited in 35 or more quarters in the same period. **Table A-7** for the House and **Table A-13** for the Senate provide lists of countries that have not appeared in foreign currency disclosure documents since 1993.

As with any data taken from the 22 U.S.C. 1754 disclosures, the information regarding destinations should be interpreted with care. For example, it appears from foreign currency disclosure data that no one from Congress has visited the Vatican in an official capacity since 1993. At the same time, it was widely reported that a number of members were appointed by their respective chambers to attend the funeral rites of Pope John Paul II in 2005.¹⁷ It is possible that no one in the congressional delegation that traveled to the Vatican spent foreign currency while they were there. It may also be the case that some of the travel disclosures listed Italy as the destination, although the Vatican is recognized as an independent state that sits within that country. On the other hand, since the 22 U.S.C. 1754 disclosure is not meant to be an official record of the places to which Congress travels, some gaps between those records, and evidence of other travel may be expected.

In other instances, foreign destinations change names, geographic boundaries, or cease to exist. As a consequence, there has been some fluidity in the names, number and jurisdiction of some states since 1994. Instances in which country names changed are incorporated in the data under the state's current name.¹⁸ Immediately prior to the period studied, the former Czechoslovakia dissolved into two nations, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Some congressional travel disclosures filed after the dissolution list Czechoslovakia as a destination, making it impossible to determine a traveler's actual destination. Similarly, in some circumstances, it may be possible that trips to the same region or city resulted in travel to more than one country. The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia dissolved in 1992, following the independence of former constituents Croatia, Slovenia, and Macedonia in 1991, and Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1992. The remaining entities, Montenegro and Serbia, in 1992 federated as the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and, after 2003, in a looser union as Serbia and Montenegro. In May 2006, Montenegro declared its independence. In 2008, Kosovo, then a province of Serbia, declared itself independent. As a consequence, it is not possible to determine with any precision what congressional travel to those places occurred since 1994 when the destination was listed as Yugoslavia, or any of the related, forerunner destinations.

111th Congress Legislation

H.R. 3036

Representative Walter B. Jones, Jr. introduced H.R. 3036, to direct the Secretary of Defense to determine and disclose the costs incurred in taking a Member, officer, or employee of Congress on a trip outside the United States so that such costs may be included in any report the Member, officer, or employee is required to file with respect to the trip under applicable law or rules of the House of Representatives or Senate, on June 25, 2009. The measure would require the Department of Defense (DOD) to give a Member, officer, or employee of the House or Senate

¹⁷ Sonny Bunch, "Forty to Attend Papal Funeral," *Roll Call*, April 6, 2005, retrieved through nексis.com.

¹⁸ For example, disclosures of travel to Zaire are listed under Democratic Republic of Congo, as the country has been known since 1997.

traveling outside the United States on official duty a written statement of the cost of any DOD-provided transportation within 10 days after completion of the trip. H.R. 3036 would require the inclusion of those statements in any report which must be filed pursuant to House or Senate rules. The measure would exclude any travel whose sole purpose is to visit U.S. military installations, or to visit U.S. military personnel in a war zone.

H.R. 3036 was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition, to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. No further action has been taken as of the date of this writing.

H.R. 4447

On January 13, 2010, Representative Timothy V. Johnson introduced H.R. 4447, Suspending Travel After Years of Pleasure Trips on Unwitting Taxpayers Act of 2010, or the STAY PUT Act of 2010. The measure would prohibit the use of appropriated funds to pay for official international travel by any Member, officer, or employee of the House until the Comptroller General studies and reports to the Speaker of the House, DOD, and Department of State (State). The report would consider the use of certain appropriated funds for congressional international travel, make recommendations for appropriate restrictions on, and reporting requirements applicable to, such travel that would promote transparency and cost savings. H.R. 4447 exempts any travel: (1) to a military installation or to a theater of operations of the Armed Forces; and (2) by Members and employees of the Committee on Foreign Affairs or the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, if the travel is for official committee business.

H.R. 4447 was referred to the Committee on House Administration. No further action has been taken as of the date of this writing.

H.R. 4983

Representative Mike Quigley introduced H.R. 4983, the Transparency in Government Act of 2010 on March 25, 2010. The bill would amend a number of House rules to increase disclosure and access to records of congressional activities. Regarding congressional international travel, section 102 of the measure would require that disclosure reports filed under House Rule X, clause 8(b)(3) to be posted on the website of the committee to which the report was submitted in a searchable, sortable, downloadable format within 48 hours of filing.

H.R. 4983 was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition, to the Committees on Rules, House Administration, the Judiciary, and Standards of Official Conduct, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on June 15, 2010, referred the measure to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties. No further action has been taken as of the date of this writing.

H.R. 5957

H.R. 5957, the Congressional Foreign Travel Reform Act of 2010, was introduced by Representative Timothy V. Johnson on July 29, 2010. The measure would repeal current law governing the congressional use of foreign currency in conjunction with international travel, and establish new procedures. The House and Senate could obtain foreign currency to provide per diem allowances to Members and staff of the House and Senate who travel overseas in the course of their official duties, subject to the authorization of certain congressional officials.¹⁹ Local currency could be issued subject to a limitation of the greater of the equivalent of \$75 per day, or the maximum per diem established for each country by the Department of State for employees of the United States Government.²⁰ Any unexpended per diem would be required to be returned to the Department of Treasury for the purposes of deficit reduction. H.R. 5957 would prohibit vacation stopovers in conjunction with official, international travel, and restrict the number of staff from Member and committee offices with some exceptions. All travelers would be required to take action to reduce the costs of travel, and to return unexpended per diem at the conclusion of travel. The Committee on House Administration (CHA) would be granted authority to promulgate regulations implementing changes to House rules and procedures related to international travel.

The measure would require Members and staff of the House to file statements before and after any international travel. At least 14 days prior to undertaking travel, the first statement would be required to include the following: (1) a description of how the travel relates to the Member's or employee's official duties; (2) a tentative itinerary for each day of the travel, including a list of the locations to be visited, and any individuals to be met; (3) the names of any other individuals who are traveling with a House Member or staff; (4) the amount of the per diem requested for the travel, and whether the amount is greater than the standard per diem provided by the State Department; and (5) a description of the aircraft to be used for transportation for the travel, including a "best estimate of the costs of using such aircraft." When travel is completed, H.R. 5957 would require a statement within 14 days with the following: (1) a statement detailing the "value, worthiness, and educational benefit to the Member or employee of the travel"; (2) an itinerary, including a comprehensive statement of travel times, meetings, and other activities (3) costs of travel, including an itemization of costs and providers of transportation, lodging, and meals; and (4) the amount, if any, of the per diem that was unspent. The measure would allow a Member or employee of the House to exclude from either statement any information that is classified or which would adversely affect national security, but would require documentation in support of any such exclusion. All statements would be required to be published in the *Congressional Record*, and posted on the Web sites of the Clerk of the House and the website of the official authorizing travel. In addition, statements regarding the travel of a Member would be required to be posted on that Member's website; statements of House employees would be required to be posted on the website of the employee's employing office.

¹⁹ In the House, authorizations could be obtained from the Speaker, for Members, officers, or employees of the House; or from the chairman of a committee, for Members or employees of that panel. In the Senate, the President of the Senate, President Pro Tempore, Majority Leader, or Minority Leader could authorize travel for Senators, officers, and employees of the Senate. Chairmen of Senate committees could authorize travel for Senators serving on, or staff employed by, those panels. Chairmen of joint committees could authorize travel for Members and employees of those panels.

²⁰ See 5 U.S.C. 5702.

H.R. 5957 was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition, to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. No further action has been taken as of the date of this writing.

House Administrative Actions, 111th Congress

On May 14, 2010, Speaker Nancy Pelosi issued a restatement of rules regarding the authorization by House Committee chairmen of international and domestic travel by Members and staff of the House.²¹ The restatement included the following:

- authorizations to travel for oversight purposes must be made in writing to a committee chairman. An itinerary of the proposed trip must be included, as well as a statement describing the purpose of the travel. If commercial air travel will be undertaken, the estimated cost of airline tickets must also be included;
- commercial air travel may only be booked in coach/economy class, “consistent with Executive Branch guidelines.” Business-class accommodations may only be authorized if the scheduled flight time is in excess of 14 hours, consistent with rules established by DOD and State;
- any per diem provided to Members or staff is intended to be expended only for official purposes related to the trip. Requests for enhanced per diem must explain the justification for the request and must be submitted by the Member leading the delegation. Excess funds are to be returned to the Treasury;
- international travel should be authorized only when it is necessary to facilitate the work of the committee;
- chairmen may authorize travel only for Members and staff of their committee. Spouses of Members may travel when necessary for protocol purposes only and at no cost to the federal government;²²
- staff support must be provided by committee staff only. Personal staff is not authorized to travel;
- all travel must be led by a majority party Member of the committee and efforts to ensure that the travel is bipartisan must be documented;
- a minimum number of Members, varying by the type of aircraft assigned, is required for use of DOD aircraft to support congressional travel;
- Member travel is to be conducted only during times when the House is not in session and is not to interfere with representational responsibilities; and

²¹ This section is based on information taken from Speaker Nancy Pelosi, “Pelosi Announces New Director of Interparliamentary Affairs, CODEL Reforms,” press release, May 14, 2010, <http://www.speaker.gov/newsroom/pressreleases?id=1698>.

²² If a Member of the committee does not have a spouse, an adult child (18 years of age and older) of the Member may be authorized to travel when necessary for protocol purposes only, and on the same basis as a spouse.

- committees must file, on a quarterly basis with the Clerk of the House, reports disclosing all expenditures for travel and the purpose of those expenditures.

Discussion

There is no single source that identifies all international travel undertaken by the House or Senate, and no means to identify the number of trips taken, destinations visited, travelers, total costs, or costs paid for by funds appropriated to government entities other than Congress. Based on an evaluation of international travel disclosures required pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1754, it would appear that the explanatory capacity of current disclosure requirements may be of limited assistance to explain the purposes, benefits, destinations, and costs of congressional international travel. In the event that Congress chooses to reconsider current practices whether through legislation introduced thus far in the 111th Congress or by other vehicles, it would appear to have the following options:

- Maintain the status quo.
- Require more detailed disclosure by Members of Congress and their staff who travel to international destinations.
- Require detailed disclosure by all government entities that support congressional travel.

Increased disclosure could clarify the purposes and intended outcomes of congressional international travel. More detailed disclosure might include purposes of travel, travelers, detailed itineraries, and purposes of intermediate stops, (e.g., layovers). Activities related to congressional international travel for which there is little publicly available information may include advance planning in support of such travel, means by which Members and staff are chosen to travel, reasons destinations are chosen, and reasons for stops at intermediate points on the way to a final destination.

Various foreign currency disclosures filed by congressional entities referred to travel support provided by some executive branch agencies, including DOD²³ and State.²⁴ Although consideration of the activities of executive entities in support of congressional international travel is beyond the scope of this report, it would appear that full transparency of the costs on congressional international travel would involve consideration of the extent of support provided by executive agencies, and the costs of that support. Requiring disclosure by executive agencies of the activities they undertake to support congressional international travel could lead to a more detailed picture of the overall costs of that travel when combined with expenditures by Congress.²⁵ 22 U.S.C. 1754 does not require the disclosure of the costs of that assistance.

Generally, more detailed disclosure of congressional international travel could increase the transparency of congressional activities. The costs of administering the disclosure process,

²³ For more information on the role of DOD in support of congressional travel, see 31 U.S.C. 1108, sec. (g), and Department of Defense Directive Number 4515.12, “DOD Support for Travel of members and Employees of Congress,” January 15, 2010, <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/cretes/pdf/451512p.pdf>.

²⁴ For more information on the role of State in support of congressional international travel, see Department of State, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, *Official Foreign Travel Guide for the U.S. Congress*, August 2008.

²⁵ Such information may also shed light the extent and means of interbranch cooperation.

however, could result in increased administrative effort, time, and cost. This might make such travel more expensive, or make the actual costs seem higher, as the costs of planning and executive agency support are included. Any change to current disclosure requirements could subject Congress to greater scrutiny by the media and general public. Raising the profile of congressional travel among the media and public might curtail the incidence of congressional international travel if the response is unfavorable. On the other hand, increased disclosure might afford the opportunity to more fully inform the public about the necessities and benefits of congressional international travel. To the extent that those educational efforts lead to a positive public response and greater support for travel, more detailed disclosure might increase the incidence of such travel.²⁶

Enhanced transparency could raise security concerns if patterns of congressional international travel are easily available and their analysis reveals consistent patterns of travel. This could increase the cost of travel to destinations that pose greater risks to Members of Congress or their staffs, or curtail such travel.

Any change to current congressional travel practices arguably could affect the ability of legislators and staff to make informed decisions in their official duties. Were Congress to proceed in this area, it could take into consideration the balance between the potential consequences of those changes against enhanced transparency and a more detailed understanding of the ways in which congressional international travel serves Congress and the national interest.

²⁶ A version of this argument is offered by Cragg Hines, "Do You Know Where Your Rep is—and Who's Paying?" *The Houston Chronicle*, July 3, 2005, p. 3, Outlook Section.

Appendix. Foreign Currency Disclosure Data, 1993 - Present

Table A-1. Foreign Currency Travel Expense Disclosures Filed in the House and Senate, 1993-Present

Calendar Years

Year	House Total ^a	House, No Expenditures ^b	House, Adjusted ^c	Senate
1993	34	0	34	31
1994	96	0	96	66
1995	76	0	76	36
1996	79	0	79	44
1997	114	0	114	62
1998	147	29	118	65
1999	139	24	115	57
2000	96	12	84	68
2001	119	29	90	51
2002	137	19	118	59
2003	147	20	127	54
2004	165	22	143	77
2005	82	13	69	68
2006	131	19	112	72
2007	137	24	113	58
2008	140	14	126	61
2009	134	17	117	47
2010	21	1	20	33
Totals	1,994	243	1,751	1,009

Source: Foreign Travel Disclosures filed in the House and Senate, 1993- present.

Notes: Senate data through August 3, 2010, House through July 26, 2010.

- a. Number of disclosures filed by House entities.
- b. Number of disclosures filed by House entities that reported no expenditures.
- c. Number of disclosures filed by House entities that reported expenditures. Calculations provided below for the House are based on these disclosures unless otherwise noted.

House Travel Data

House Foreign Currency Use

**Table A-2. Foreign Currency Travel Expenditures
Reported by the House of Representatives, FY1994-FY2010**
Nominal and Constant (June 2010) Dollars

FY	Nominal \$				Constant \$			
	Per Diem	Transport	Other	Total	Per Diem	Transport	Other	Total
2010	\$997,368	\$1,990,859	\$126,683	\$3,114,910	\$801,224	\$1,753,274	\$93,046	\$2,647,544
2009	\$2,803,768	\$5,777,807	\$867,741	\$9,449,316	\$2,840,544	\$5,848,667	\$880,858	\$9,570,070
2008	\$2,252,234	\$4,887,992	\$362,842	\$7,503,068	\$2,274,199	\$4,942,511	\$364,934	\$7,581,644
2007	\$1,942,136	\$4,596,475	\$376,774	\$6,915,386	\$2,032,515	\$4,810,572	\$394,167	\$7,237,253
2006	\$1,505,225	\$3,053,139	\$292,298	\$4,850,662	\$1,628,805	\$3,302,074	\$316,455	\$5,247,334
2005	\$1,487,172	\$2,072,841	\$461,436	\$4,021,449	\$1,672,462	\$2,330,749	\$520,446	\$4,523,656
2004	\$2,206,125	\$3,801,836	\$215,814	\$6,223,775	\$2,540,475	\$4,375,142	\$247,382	\$7,162,999
2003	\$1,998,332	\$2,679,947	\$369,335	\$5,047,614	\$2,361,510	\$3,169,801	\$438,491	\$5,969,802
2002	\$1,552,494	\$2,274,087	\$305,157	\$4,131,739	\$1,868,887	\$2,737,801	\$367,531	\$4,974,218
2001	\$1,413,621	\$1,957,984	\$192,398	\$3,564,003	\$1,735,634	\$2,409,492	\$235,286	\$4,380,412
2000	\$1,134,347	\$1,999,211	\$145,288	\$3,278,846	\$1,436,894	\$2,540,664	\$182,752	\$4,160,310
1999	\$1,512,875	\$2,234,072	\$485,173	\$3,288,477	\$1,823,629	\$2,760,102	\$489,158	\$4,129,247
1998	\$1,667,946	\$2,415,376	\$98,035	\$4,181,357	\$2,224,019	\$3,217,555	\$130,656	\$5,572,230
1997	\$1,350,856	\$1,540,130	\$73,587	\$2,964,574	\$1,828,061	\$2,087,489	\$99,335	\$4,014,885
1996	\$776,768	\$1,373,369	\$27,721	\$2,177,859	\$1,078,119	\$1,911,611	\$38,484	\$3,028,214
1995	\$797,347	\$1,217,679	\$23,892	\$2,038,917	\$1,137,394	\$1,738,926	\$33,945	\$2,910,264
1994	\$724,881	\$788,941	\$43,340	\$1,557,162	\$1,064,181	\$1,158,511	\$63,385	\$2,286,077

Source: Reports of certain expenditures for all official foreign travel by Members and staff of the House, filed in accordance with 22 U.S.C. 1754, the Consumer Price Index for various years, available at <ftp://ftp.bls.gov/pub/special.requests/cpi/cpiai.txt>, and CRS calculations of totals reported in each disclosure by year. House disclosures of foreign currency use in conjunction with international travel are available from the Clerk of the House at http://clerk.house.gov/public_disc/foreign/index.html.

Notes: Rounded to nearest dollar. Data current through July 26, 2010.

House Destinations

Table A-3. Countries Visited by Members and Staff of the House of Representatives, FY1994-FY2010

FY	Individual Destinations	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2010	75	52	43	5	—
2009	123	71	52	80	70
2008	125	63	82	52	78
2007	124	50	54	69	90
2006	120	65	84	59	67
2005	104	80	42	59	15
2004	119	3	71	68	77
2003	108	48	43	47	69
2002	115	27	65	53	71
2001	103	39	48	64	72
2000	106	66	49	17	57
1999	116	54	66	73	64
1998	111	70	49	53	71
1997	100	42	58	51	47
1996	67	22	29	43	36
1995	104	41	53	52	56
1994	70	0	38	42	37

Source: CRS analysis of House foreign currency expenditure disclosure records. Data current through July 26, 2010.

Notes: “Individual Destinations” reports the number of destinations visited at least once in each year. Quarterly totals report the number of destinations visited at least once in each quarter. Since some destinations may have been visited more than once in a quarter or year, the sum of the quarterly totals may not reflect the number of individual destinations visited in each year.

Table A-4. Destinations Visited by Members of the House and House Staff in 15 or More Years Since 1993

Destination	Years Visited
Belgium	17
Canada	17
China	17
Egypt	17
France	17
Germany	17
Hong Kong	17

Destination	Years Visited
Israel	17
Italy	17
Kenya	17
Korea, South ^a	17
Mexico	17
South Africa, Republic of	17
Turkey	17
United Kingdom ^b	17
Australia	16
Brazil	16
Czech Republic	16
El Salvador	16
Guatemala	16
Hungary	16
India	16
Ireland	16
Japan	16
Jordan	16
Peru	16
Poland	16
Russia	16
Singapore	16
Spain	16
Switzerland	16
Thailand	16
Ukraine	16
Vietnam	16
Argentina	15
Austria	15
Bosnia-Herzegovina	15
Colombia	15
Denmark	15
Haiti	15
Indonesia	15
Morocco	15
Nicaragua	15
Pakistan	15

Destination	Years Visited
Philippines	15
Qatar	15
Taiwan	15

Source: CRS analysis of House foreign travel disclosure records.

- a. Excludes numerous references to travel to Korea.
- b. Includes destinations listed as United Kingdom, England, Scotland, Wales, or Northern Ireland.

Table A-5. Destinations Visited by Members of the House and House Staff in 35 or More Quarters Since 1993

Country	Years Visited	Quarters Visited
Germany	17	64
Italy	17	62
Belgium	17	58
France	17	58
United Kingdom ^a	17	58
Russia	16	57
Israel	17	53
Turkey	17	53
Thailand	16	52
Switzerland	16	51
China	17	50
Canada	17	49
Colombia	15	48
Japan	16	48
Ireland	16	47
Mexico	17	47
Austria	15	45
Jordan	16	44
South Africa, Republic of	17	44
Spain	16	43
India	16	42
Australia	16	41
Egypt	17	41
Czech Republic	16	40
Hong Kong	17	40
Hungary	16	40
Netherlands	14	40

Country	Years Visited	Quarters Visited
Pakistan	15	38
Haiti	15	36
Korea, South ^b	17	36
Kuwait	14	36
Argentina	15	35
Bosnia-Herzegovina	15	35
Indonesia	15	35
Kenya	17	35

Source: CRS analysis of House foreign travel disclosure records.

- a. Includes destinations listed as United Kingdom, England, Scotland, Wales, or Northern Ireland.
- b. Excludes numerous references to travel to Korea.

Table A-6. Destinations to Which Members of the House or House Staff Have Travelled at Least Once, 1993-2010

Afghanistan	Denmark	Korea, South	Philippines
Albania	Djibouti	Kosovo	Poland
Algeria	Dominica	Kuwait	Portugal
Angola	Dominican Republic	Kyrgyzstan	Qatar
Antarctica	East Timor ^a	Laos	Romania
Antigua and Barbuda	Ecuador	Latvia	Russia
Argentina	Egypt	Lebanon	Rwanda
Armenia	El Salvador	Lesotho	Samoa
Aruba	Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	Saudi Arabia
Australia	Eritrea	Libya	Senegal
Austria	Estonia	Lithuania	Serbia
Azerbaijan	Ethiopia	Luxembourg	Sierra Leone
Bahamas	Fiji	Macau	Singapore
Bahrain	Finland	Macedonia	Slovakia
Bangladesh	France	Madagascar	Slovenia
Barbados	French Guiana	Malawi	Somalia
Belarus	French Polynesia	Malaysia	South Africa, Republic of
Belgium	Gambia	Mali	Spain
Belize	Georgia	Malta	Sri Lanka
Benin	Germany	Marshall Islands	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Bermuda	Ghana	Martinique	Sudan
Bhutan	Gibraltar	Mauritania	Swaziland

Bolivia	Greece	Mauritius	Sweden
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Greenland	Mexico	Switzerland
Botswana	Grenada	Micronesia	Syria
Brazil	Guadeloupe	Moldova	Taiwan
British Virgin Islands	Guatemala	Mongolia	Tajikistan
Bulgaria	Guinea	Montenegro	Tanzania
Burkina Faso	Guinea-Bissau	Morocco	Thailand
Burma	Haiti	Mozambique	Togo
Burundi	Honduras	Namibia	Tonga
Cambodia	Hong Kong	Nepal	Trinidad and Tobago
Cameroon	Hungary	Netherlands	Tunisia
Canada	Iceland	Netherlands Antilles	Turkey
Cape Verde	India	New Zealand	Turkmenistan
Chad	Indonesia	Nicaragua	Uganda
Chile	Iraq	Niger	Ukraine
China	Ireland	Nigeria	United Arab Emirates ^b
Colombia	Israel	Norway	United Kingdom ^c
Congo, Democratic Republic of ^d	Italy	Oman	Uruguay
Congo, Republic of the	Jamaica	Pakistan	Uzbekistan
Costa Rica	Japan	Palau	Venezuela
Cote D'Ivoire ^e	Jordan	Panama	Vietnam
Croatia	Kazakhstan	Papua New Guinea	Yemen
Cuba	Kenya	Paraguay	Zambia
Cyprus	Korea, North ^f	Peru	Zimbabwe
Czech Republic			

Source: CRS analysis of House foreign travel disclosure records.

- a. Includes destinations listed as East Timor or Timor Leste.
- b. Includes destinations listed as United Arab Emirates, Abu Dhabi, or Dubai.
- c. Includes destinations listed as United Kingdom, England, Scotland, Wales, or Northern Ireland.
- d. Includes destinations listed as Democratic Republic of Congo, “DRC,” if listed in conjunction with other African travel, and Zaire.
- e. Includes destinations listed as Cote D'Ivoire or Ivory Coast.
- f. Excludes numerous references to travel to Korea.

Table A-7. Countries that Were Not Listed in Foreign Travel Disclosures Filed in the House Since 1993

Andorra	Kiribati	Solomon Islands
Brunei	Liechtenstein	St. Kitts and St. Nevis
Central African Republic	Maldives	St. Lucia
Comoros	Monaco	Suriname
Cook Islands	Nauru	Tuvalu
Gabon	New Caledonia	Vanuatu
Guyana	San Marino	Vatican
Iran	Sao Tome and Principe	Zanzibar

Source: CRS analysis of House foreign travel disclosure records, cross-referenced against entities listed in the Department of State telephone directory for country offices, available at <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/115480.pdf>.

Senate Travel Data

Senate Foreign Currency Use

Table A-8. Foreign Currency Travel Expenditures Reported by the Senate, FY1994-FY2010
Nominal and Constant (June 2010) Dollars

FY	Nominal \$				Constant \$			
	Per Diem	Transport	Other	Total	Per Diem	Transport	Other	Total
2010	\$1,066,231	\$2,988,899	\$45,314	\$4,100,445	\$398,418	\$1,021,003	\$7,106	\$1,426,526
2009	\$1,626,465	\$3,563,121	\$34,668	\$5,224,254	\$1,651,128	\$3,613,822	\$35,139	\$5,300,089
2008	\$604,113	\$2,194,829	\$210,641	\$3,009,582	\$619,984	\$2,254,934	\$218,494	\$3,093,412
2007	\$786,981	\$2,900,221	\$126,972	\$3,814,173	\$834,271	\$3,074,590	\$133,947	\$4,042,809
2006	\$741,680	\$2,218,608	\$135,394	\$3,095,681	\$806,820	\$2,416,219	\$146,407	\$3,369,446
2005	\$795,850	\$1,895,684	\$430,548	\$3,122,082	\$893,535	\$2,132,350	\$483,359	\$3,509,244
2004	\$815,697	\$1,547,955	\$246,727	\$2,610,378	\$944,499	\$1,791,931	\$285,929	\$3,022,359
2003	\$502,031	\$958,153	\$156,515	\$1,616,699	\$599,029	\$1,144,032	\$186,218	\$1,929,278
2002	\$801,932	\$1,497,003	\$262,102	\$2,561,037	\$970,409	\$1,811,507	\$317,167	\$3,099,083
2001	\$515,992	\$992,384	\$131,042	\$1,639,417	\$638,351	\$1,229,717	\$161,082	\$2,029,150
2000	\$519,835	\$948,389	\$60,714	\$1,528,939	\$661,029	\$1,210,398	\$76,797	\$1,948,224
1999	\$568,481	\$1,116,404	\$53,250	\$1,738,135	\$749,910	\$1,471,897	\$70,398	\$2,292,205
1998	\$688,154	\$1,049,156	\$134,246	\$1,871,555	\$922,256	\$1,405,826	\$179,613	\$2,507,695
1997	\$547,065	\$698,091	\$98,755	\$1,343,911	\$742,701	\$948,104	\$133,615	\$1,824,420
1996	\$221,187	\$265,626	\$45,292	\$532,105	\$307,632	\$369,426	\$62,991	\$740,049

FY	Nominal \$				Constant \$			
	Per Diem	Transport	Other	Total	Per Diem	Transport	Other	Total
1995	\$391,653	\$416,216	\$66,966	\$874,834	\$559,455	\$594,541	\$95,657	\$1,249,653
1994	\$539,337	\$554,187	\$167,306	\$1,260,830	\$770,413	\$791,626	\$238,987	\$1,801,026

Source: Reports of certain expenditures for all official foreign travel by Members and staff of the Senate, filed in accordance with 22 U.S.C. 1754, and published in the *Congressional Record*.

Notes: Rounded to nearest dollar. Data based on CRS calculations of totals reported in each disclosure by year. Data current through August 3, 2010.

Senate Destinations

Table A-9. Countries Visited By Members and Staff of the Senate, FY1994-FY2009

FY	Individual Destinations	Quarterly Destinations			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2010	95	41	60	65	0
2009	97	62	40	58	9
2008	107	57	72	50	68
2007	118	65	36	39	70
2006	105	41	58	50	55
2005	106	59	55	44	53
2004	113	42	58	35	68
2003	91	43	29	39	47
2002	105	24	58	58	45
2001	105	28	26	55	38
2000	99	42	44	36	57
1999	91	65	24	35	43
1998	102	68	51	43	37
1997	79	29	39	31	40
1996	61	8	33	26	25
1995	72	45	8	30	40
1994	67	34	44	35	23

Source: CRS analysis of Senate foreign currency expenditure disclosure records. Data current through August 3, 2010.

Notes: “Individual Destinations” reports the number of destination visited at least once in each year. Quarterly totals report the number of destinations visited at least once in each quarter. Since some destinations may have been visited more than once in a quarter or year, the sum of the quarterly totals may not reflect the number of individual destinations visited in each year.

Table A-10. Destinations Visited by Senators or Senate Staff in 15 or More Years Since 1993

Country	Years Visited
Austria	17
Belgium	17
China	17
France	17
Germany	17
India	17
Israel	17
Italy	17
Japan	17
Jordan	17
Russia	17
Singapore	17
Switzerland	17
Turkey	17
United Kingdom ^a	17
Hong Kong	16
Kenya	16
Korea, South ^b	16
Netherlands ^c	16
Pakistan	16
Poland	16
Spain	16
Thailand	16
Ukraine	16
Brazil	15
Czech Republic	15
Denmark	15
Haiti	15
Indonesia	15
Ireland	15
Kazakhstan	15
Vietnam	15

Source: CRS analysis of Senate foreign travel disclosure records.

a. Includes destinations listed as United Kingdom, England, Scotland, Wales, or Northern Ireland.

b. Excludes numerous references to travel to Korea.

c. Includes destinations listed as Netherlands or Holland.

Table A-II. Destinations Visited by Senators or Senate Staff in 35 or More Quarters Since 1993

Totals	Years Visited	Quarters Visited
Germany	17	61
Italy	17	58
France	17	56
United Kingdom ^a	17	55
Israel	17	53
Switzerland	17	52
Belgium	17	50
China	17	50
Japan	17	49
Austria	17	46
Turkey	17	46
Russia	17	44
Jordan	17	43
Thailand	16	43
Korea, South ^b	16	40
Hong Kong	16	39
Pakistan	16	39
Poland	16	37
Singapore	17	37

Source: CRS analysis of Senate foreign travel disclosure records.

- a. Includes destinations listed as United Kingdom, England, Scotland, Wales, or Northern Ireland.
- b. Excludes numerous references to travel to Korea.

Table A-12. Destinations to Which Senators or Senate Staff Have Travelled at Least Once, 1993-2009

Afghanistan	Czech Republic	Laos	Qatar
Albania	Denmark	Latvia	Romania
Algeria	Djibouti	Lebanon	Russia
Angola	Dominica	Lesotho	Rwanda
Antarctica	Dominican Republic	Liberia	Samoa
Antigua and Barbuda	East Timor ^a	Libya	Sao Tome and Principe
Argentina	Ecuador	Lithuania	Saudi Arabia
Armenia	Egypt	Luxembourg	Senegal
Aruba	El Salvador	Macedonia	Serbia
Australia	Equatorial Guinea	Madagascar	Sierra Leone
Austria	Eritrea	Malawi	Singapore
Azerbaijan	Estonia	Malaysia	Slovakia
Bahamas	Ethiopia	Maldives	Slovenia
Bahrain	Finland	Mali	Somalia
Bangladesh	France	Malta	South Africa, Republic of
Belarus	Gabon	Marshall Islands	Spain
Belgium	Georgia	Mauritania	Sri Lanka
Benin	Germany	Mauritius	St. Kitts and St. Nevis
Bhutan	Ghana	Mexico	Sudan
Bolivia	Greece	Micronesia	Swaziland
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Greenland	Moldova	Sweden
Botswana	Guatemala	Monaco	Switzerland
Brazil	Guinea	Mongolia	Syria
British Indian Ocean Territory	Guyana	Montenegro	Taiwan
Brunei	Haiti	Morocco	Tajikistan
Bulgaria	Honduras	Mozambique	Tanzania
Burma, Union of	Hong Kong	Namibia	Thailand
Burundi	Hungary	Nepal	Togo
Cambodia	Iceland	Netherlands Antilles	Trinidad and Tobago
Cameroon	India	Netherlands ^b	Tunisia
Canada	Indonesia	New Zealand	Turkey
Cape Verde	Iraq	Nicaragua	Turkmenistan
Cayman Islands	Ireland	Niger	Uganda

Chad	Israel	Nigeria	Ukraine
Chile	Italy	Norway	United Arab Emirates ^c
China	Jamaica	Oman	United Kingdom ^d
Colombia	Japan	Pakistan	Uruguay
Comoros	Jordan	Palau	Uzbekistan
Congo, Democratic Republic of	Kazakhstan	Panama	Vanuatu
Congo, Republic of the	Kenya	Papua New Guinea	Venezuela
Costa Rica	Korea, North ^e	Paraguay	Vietnam
Cote D'Ivoire ^f	Korea, South	Peru	Yemen
Croatia	Kosovo	Philippines	Yugoslavia ^g
Cuba	Kuwait	Poland	Zambia
Cyprus	Kyrgyzstan	Portugal	Zimbabwe

Source: CRS analysis of Senate foreign travel disclosure records.

- a. Includes destinations listed as East Timor or Timor Leste.
- b. Includes destinations listed as Netherlands or Holland.
- c. Includes destinations listed as United Arab Emirates, Abu Dhabi, or Dubai.
- d. Includes destinations listed as United Kingdom, England, Scotland, Wales, or Northern Ireland.
- e. Excludes numerous references to travel to Korea.
- f. Includes destinations listed as Cote D'Ivoire or Ivory Coast.
- g. Listed as a destination prior to June, 2006.

Table A-13. Countries That Were Not Listed in Foreign Travel Disclosures Filed in the Senate Since 1993

Andorra	Gibraltar	New Caledonia
Barbados	Grenada	San Marino
Belize	Guadeloupe	Solomon Islands
Bermuda	Guinea-Bissau	St. Lucia
Burkina Faso	Iran	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Central African Republic	Kiribati	Suriname
Cook Islands	Liechtenstein	Tanzania
Fiji	Macau	Tonga
French Polynesia	Martinique	Tuvalu
Gambia	Nauru	Vatican

Source: CRS analysis of Senate foreign travel disclosure records, cross-referenced against entities listed in the Department of State telephone directory for country offices, available at <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/115480.pdf>.

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